



Montana Public Service Commission
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**PSC TO HOLD HEARINGS NOV.7 IN PABLO, HOT SPRINGS
POLSON & RONAN ON EXPANDED LOCAL CALLING
PROPOSAL BY THE WESTERN MONTANA LOCAL
CALLING COALITION**

The state Public Service Commission will hold public hearings in four Montana communities on November 7 to obtain comments on the proposals of the Western Montana Local Calling Coalition for a Reservation-wide extended area service (EAS) local calling plan among and between specified exchange customers of CenturyTel, Inc. (Elmo, Finley Point, Polson), Blackfoot Telephone Company (Arlee, Charlo, Dixon, St. Ignatius), Ronan Telephone Company (Ronan, Pablo), and Hot Springs Telephone Company (Hot Springs). Extended area service expands local calling areas so that customers' phone calls within an EAS area are local, not long-distance. However, local phone rates in an EAS area must increase to recover EAS costs.

The public hearings will be on Monday, November 7, at the following locations and times:

- **Pablo**, 10 am, CS/KT Tribal Complex, Highway 93 (technical hearing location)
- **Hot Springs**, 1:30 pm, Senior Center, 101 Main Street
- **Polson**, 3:45 pm, Lake County Court House
- **Ronan**, 5:30 pm, Community Center, 300 3rd Avenue, NW

If the EAS proposal is approved, the proposed monthly rates for residential and business services provided to the specified exchange customers mentioned above will increase as follows:

CenturyTel: \$1.60 for measured basic
\$4.79 for unlimited Valley-wide region and Reservation-wide
\$1.60 for unlimited Valley-wide region only
\$4.79 for unlimited Reservation-wide only

Blackfoot: No change for measured basic
\$5.00 for unlimited Missoula region and Reservation-wide
No change for unlimited Missoula region only
An unlimited Reservation-wide only plan was not proposed

Ronan: \$3.75 for measured basic
\$6.00 for unlimited Missoula region and Reservation-wide
An unlimited Missoula region only plan will no longer be available
An unlimited Reservation-wide plan was not proposed

Hot Springs: \$3.00 for measured basic, plus \$4.00 for Rural Zone 1 and \$2.00 for Rural Zone 2
\$3.00 for unlimited Missoula region and Reservation-wide
An unlimited Missoula region only plan will no longer be available
An unlimited Reservation-wide plan was not proposed

Information on rates changes for other services will be available at the public hearings.

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